(b) and (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance for the tourism-related projects which are identified in consultation with the State concerned every year for providing financial assistance under the schemes Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/ Infrastructure and Destination Development and Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects.

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has sanctioned a project for Integrated Development of Buddhist Circuit in Orissa to develop tourist facilities at Lalitgin',, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri and Langudi for an amount of Rs. 740.67 lakh during the year 2004-05 under the Integrated Development of Tourism Circuits Scheme.

Development of Yatradham Somnath

†2322. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the development of Yatradham Somnath; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourist places/spots is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance on the basis of project proposals prioritized every year in consultation with them. A project for development of area around Somnath Temple has been sanctioned for Rs. 548.81 lakhs during 2003-04.

Cultural and religious Fairs in Uttaranchal

†2323. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Uttaranchal conducts a

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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number of conventional fairs of cultural-religious significance every year which have a vast potential of attracting domestic and foreign tourists;

(b) if so, whether economic assistance is being extended to State Government for conservations of these fairs and to provide more facilities therefor; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKACHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c)Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends Central Financial assistance to State Governments/UT Administrations for organising one "event"' and two "fairs & festivals" every year for promotion of tourism which are identified in consultation with the State concerned. The funds are released subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds under the respective head.

Pending Proposals from Madhya Pradesh

†2324. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals forwarded by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh have been pending with the Central Government for clearance since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof, proposal-wise; and

(c) by when these proposal would be cleared by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourist places/spots is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance for projects prioritized every year in consultation with them. On the receipt of proposals that are complete in all respects, funds are provided subject to availability under the respective head.

During the 10th Five Year Plan (from 2002-03 to 2004-05) the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned projects worth Rs. 2928.27 lakhs for Madhya Pradesh.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.